

The Planters' Chronicle.

RECOGNISED AS THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE U. P. A. S. I., INCORPORATED.

(Secretary's Registered Telegraphic Address "Planting," Bangalore)

VOL. VIII. No. 44.]

NOVEMBER 1, 1913.

[PRICE AS. 8.

THE U. P. A. S. I.

(INCORPORATED.)

Contents.

Three District Association Meetings are published in this week's issue. We note that South Travancore do not see the necessity of a Labour Commission on the lines proposed by the U. P. A. S. I., and that the Coorg Planters' Association have carried their Resolution in favour of it by a narrow majority.

We would wish to correct an impression that is abroad, that the Extraordinary General Meeting for settling this question will be called in December. But we gather that it is not the intention of the Chairman of the U. P. A. S. I. or the Executive Committee to convene the meeting at so early a date, as time has to be given to Directors and absent Proprietors to express their views, and for the Executive Committee to collate them before presenting their scheme for final acceptance.

In the correspondence columns will be found an interesting letter from Mr. Nicolls, one of the Executive Committee, describing the intentions and scope of the proposed Labour Commission, which we trust will throw more light on the subject.

Mr. Abbott writes on the subject of the S. I. P. B. Fund to correct some impression that any Rules of this Fund were altered at the last meeting, and his letter is entirely in accordance with the shorthand notes taken at the time of the discussion.

"Novice" replies to a portion of "N. I. K.'s" letter in a late issue.

A "Beginner" in Tea asks some questions, which we hope will bring an answer from some practical Tea Planter.

Mr. Richardson has kindly furnished us with information about the Rates of Freight on Tea, Rubber, Coffee, etc., which are worthy of study. It is a question that the U. P. A. S. I. might take up, but we note that an application for a reduction on freight from the Malay Planters was lately refused by the Shipping Combine.

An article on the use of Flour Paste in spraying is published, which might be experimented with on a small scale, but it is not strongly advocated in the case of Green Bug, but it must have its uses, as it is favourably reported on from the United States.

DISTRICT PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.**Wynaad Planters' Association.**

*Proceedings of a General Meeting held at Meppadi Club,
on October 15th, 1913.*

PRESENT.—Messrs. Bownass, Gillatt, Macbain, Macleod, Malcolm, Powell, Vernede, Whitton, Winterbotham, and C. E. Abbott, Honorary Secretary. **Visitors:** Messrs. Blackham, Mackay, Simpson, Mr. Macleod in the Chair.

1862. The Proceedings of last Meeting were confirmed.

1863. *Telegraph Office at Sultans Battery.*—Read correspondence. The question of the amount of guarantee required is still before Government.

1864. *Post Office at Vellera Mulla.*—Read correspondence about proposed site.

1865. *Non-Execution of Warrants in Mysore.*—Read letter to the Resident in Mysore. It was proposed by Mr. Malcolm seconded by Mr. Gillatt and carried:—"That the Honorary Secretary address H. H.'s Government, and ask to have Patels appointed to attest contracts in Mysore, pointing out the hardship that exists in the case of those working under Act I of 1903, that no Mysore official below the rank of Revenue Inspector is allowed to attest contracts, and that officials of the same rank as Patels are allowed to do so in British Territory."

1865. *Extradition from Cochin and Travancore.*—Read letter to Chief Secretary and reply stating that the matter would be considered.

1867. *Grant to Meppadi Club.*—As the Club is not proceeding with the issue of debentures, this subject was dropped.

1868. *School of Tropical Medicine.*—Decided to wait and see what steps the Government of India takes on the matter.

1869. *Photographing Coolies and Maistries.*—Read letter from Mr. Tavera, Magistrate, Vayitri, suggesting that such photographs should be taken as an aid to identification in case of legal proceedings.

1970. *U. P. A. S. I. Book of Proceedings.*—It was decided to order copies for all members at the cost of the Association.

1871. *Mr. Malcolm's proposal about Labour Rules for the District.*—This subject was discussed. *Resolved:*—"That this meeting approves of the idea of District combination in the matter of Labour Rates, and the settlement of matters referring to defaulters; and that a Committee be formed to frame rules for the consideration of a special general Meeting"

The following Committee was appointed:—Messrs. Powell, Fownass, Gillatt, Macbain and Malcolm.

The Proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

(Signed) D. H. MACLEOD,

Chairman.

(") C. E. ABBOTT,

Honorary Secretary.

South Travancore Planters' Association.

Proceedings of the Fourth Quarterly Meeting of the above Association, held at the Club in Quilon on Sunday, October 5th, at 5 p. m.

PRESENT.—Mr. Chas. Brander (in the Chair), Messrs. T. P. Alexander, Chas. Hall, J. H. Parkinson, H. C. Seymour, Honorary Secretary. *By Proxy*: Messrs. L. G. Knight, S. Sinclair, R. Branson, J. Stewart, L. White and Val. Mardon. *Visitors*: Messrs. J. Mackie, E. Lord, and J. Henderson.

Before the Meeting commenced the Hon. Secretary apologised for being late, owing to several mishaps on the journey, the meeting having been called for October 4th.

Agenda Paper.—1. Pass Minutes of the last meeting.

2. Mr. J. H. Parkinson's Report on his visit to Bangalore.

3. Proposed Labour Commission.

4. Correspondence and any other business properly brought before the meeting.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. Parkinson then gave the meeting a brief sketch of the Annual Meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. held at Bangalore. The two items of most interest to this Association being the proposed Labour Commission and visit of the Scientific Officer. Mr. Parkinson then went on to say, that as regards the Labour Commission reports of which had appeared in the *Malabar Mail* and *Planters' Chronicle* he had voted in favour of this not binding our Association in any way, but that the matter would be brought before the members at the next quarterly meeting. The Scientific Officer was, he said, unable to visit the District as previously hoped on October 25th, but would be in this District about the end of November.

As regards the Planters' Benevolent Fund it was pleasing to note that up to date only two cases had required assistance from this most deserving Fund. It was hoped that all Estates would support the Rubber Exhibition to be held in 1914. A vote of thanks was then passed to Mr. Parkinson thanking him for the very able way in which he had carried out his duties as delegate for this Association. The next item to be discussed was that of the Labour Commission. This matter was very fully and carefully discussed by those present, the general opinion being that this Association was not in need of a Labour Commission on the lines proposed by the U. P. A. S. I. On the matter being put to the vote everyone was against it and it was proposed by Mr. Alexander seconded by Mr. Hall "That this Association does not see the necessity for a Labour Commission in the meantime."

Discussing the matter further it was suggested that a good deal of good would result if delegates from all Travancore Planting Associations could meet together say three times a year and discuss all matters relative to planting, etc.

Correspondence.—A letter was then read from the Central Travancore Planters' Association containing the following resolution: "That the Hon. Secretary do write to the Excise Commissioner requesting him to accept Coast Agents' Certificates as the guarantee against the importation of dutiable goods."

After a lengthy discussion on the matter it was proposed that the Central Travancore Planters' Association be written to for a fuller explanation of the Resolution.

There being no further business the Meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

(Signed) HUGH C. SEYMOUR,
Honorary Secretary.

Coorg Planters' Association.

Proceedings of a Meeting held in the North Coorg Club, Mercara, on Thursday, 16th October, 1913.

PRESENT.—**Messrs.** Mahon, Macrae, Mann, Maclean, Bracken, Gerrard, Wood, Cox, Hume, Dickenson, Nicolls, Graham, Newberry, Morgan, Martin, Grove, A. J. Wright. **Honorary Members:**—H. K. Ellis, Esq., I.C.S. (District Magistrate of Coorg), H. Tireman, Esq., (Deputy Conservator of Forests, Coorg), and L. G. Jonas, Esq., (Assistant to the Scientific Officer). **Visitors:** Messrs. Elsee, Brown, H. Ormerod, C. K. Thimmayya; and **by Proxy:** Messrs. H. G. Grant and G. C. Garrett. **President**—Mr. C. E. Murray-Aynsley and Mr. W. M. Ball, **Honorary Secretary.**

The President in the Chair.

1. The Honorary Secretary read the notice calling the Meeting.

2. Mr. Macrae read the report of the Delegates to the meeting of the U. P. A. S. I. and expressed the pleasure it would give Mr. Mahon and himself to answer questions on any subject connected therewith. After a short conversation in which a few questions were asked and answered, Mr. Bracken proposed and Mr. Murray-Aynsley seconded:—"A hearty vote of thanks for all the trouble they had taken in representing the Association in Bangalore." The Report read as follows:—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—You have doubtless read the newspaper reports of our doings at Bangalore, and whilst these were not altogether accurate, they enable you to follow, to a certain extent what we endeavoured to do on your behalf.

The Annual Book of Proceedings, which will be published shortly, will give you more concisely what actually took place; which we will now proceed to outline, as far as it concerns our Coorg Association.

The Arsikere-Mangalore Railway.—In seconding the Resolution brought forward by the Mysore Delegates, we took advantage of the occasion to say "That as far as we were concerned, regarding a railway to Coorg, we knew our cause was already in able and sympathetic hands, and at that we were prepared to leave it," which remark was evidently appreciated by the Hon'ble Sir Hugh Daly, who was present at the meeting.

Labour Commission.—Mr. Mahon was elected a Member of the Committee, who drew up a Report, a copy of which has already been sent to every member of the Association, and whilst this might have been fuller in detail, every endeavour was made towards forming a nucleus on which to base the general utility of the scheme, in the short time available. On this point we shall be glad to answer questions, to the best of our ability, as it is a somewhat difficult matter to explain in a few words.

Non-Service of Warrants.—Under non-service of warrants we brought up Mr. Martin's suggestion re the non-extradition from Travancore. It was pointed out that this was a very tender point with the Madras Government, which though actually having the right to enforce anything of this nature, were very reluctant to use that authority, and had refused to move further in the matter on several previous occasions. If Mr. Martin would however write to the Honorary Secretary of the local Association of that part of Travancore, in which his Majesty is said to be, giving all particulars, we venture to think he would receive satisfaction, as those delegates present expressed a wish to help wherever they possibly could.

Pest Act.—The following resolution was carried unanimously, and which we trust has your approval:—

"That in view of the presence of Green Bug in the Coffee Estates of Southern India, it appears essential to this Meeting that Government should introduce some form of internal Pest Act, in order to strengthen the hands of the Scientific Staff who may be employed for stamping out the pest and keeping it under control. But would suggest that before any general Pest Act becomes law, its provisions should be submitted to the United Planters' Association for consideration and report."

The above resolution was arrived at and carried after much discussion, which was taken part in by Mr. Anstead, Scientific Officer to the Association, Mr. Bainbridge Fletcher, Imperial Entomologist, Mr. Chadwick, Director of Agriculture to the Madras Government, and Dr. Coleman, Director of Agriculture to the Government of Mysore, who kindly gave us the benefit of their experience and advice, illustrating their speeches with numerous instances where such an Act would benefit us.

Fertilisers and Guarantees.—We seconded the following resolution brought up by the Anamalais, which we trust will have the attention of Coast Firms:—"That this Association approach the suppliers of fish manure pointing out that in view of the very large percentage of insoluble matter in some of the manure at present supplied by them, they should be asked to guarantee for the future that the insoluble matter shall not exceed five per cent. and that the members of the United Planters' Association be asked to give preference to those Firms who are prepared to give such guarantee, compatible, of course, with no appreciable increase in cost."

International Rubber Exhibition.—It was agreed that the Secretary should write and place the name of one of Messrs. Matheson and Co's employees on the Committee as attending on behalf of Coorg.

Adulteration.—This resolution brought up last year, was not pushed forward, at the time, as our Scientific Staff were too much occupied to undertake the necessary analyses, so the same was re-affirmed at this meeting. Mr. Frattini gave a very interesting demonstration one morning showing how the presence of foreign matter in coffee liquor was to be detected. In the instance of some tins said to hold pure coffee, it was computed the mixture contained no less than 60 per cent. of starch.

Retention of the Scientific Officer and a proposed Mycologist.—The following resolutions were passed on these subjects: "That the Nilgiri Resolution, dated 16th July, 1913, regarding the Scientific Officer be adopted."

A. "That this Association strongly holds that the appointment of the Scientific Officer still be continued and that Mr. R. D. Anstead should continue to act as Scientific Officer. Were another Scientific Officer appointed, it would mean that it would take such Officer at least two years to get into touch with the needs of the various Districts. It is understood that the gross value of the exports of planting products from the Madras Presidency amounts to 242 lakhs, and in consideration of these figures the Government contribution of Rs. 5,500 towards the Scientific Department cannot be considered adequate."

B. "That this Association considers that the services of a Mycologist under the direct control of the U. P. A. S. I. is necessary, and that the Hon'ble Mr. Barber be asked to urge the matter on Government."

Import Duties.—The following Resolution was passed unanimously :—
 "That this Association do approach the Government of India with a view to obtaining a remission of duty on all ingredients used as insecticides and germicides, such remission of duty only to be granted to approved firms importing these goods for *bona-fide* agricultural purposes."

Mr. Mahon in proposing the above resolution said that the Association should pass a Resolution asking Government to exempt all machinery used for agricultural purposes and insecticides used for similar purposes from import duty. As regards insecticides he said that he got out a large quantity from Home to be used for planting purposes in Coorg. They had given fairly successful results, and were likely to give better in the future, if given an extended and more thorough trial. He thought it a pity that these experiments should be hampered by a heavy import duty. This was seconded by Mr. Hunt, of Mysore, who spoke to the same effect.

New Markets.—It was resolved that the Secretary write and ask the Australian Board of Agriculture for general information re the possibility of securing a Market for the sale of coffee in that country.

Export Duty on Bones.—The following is the text of the Committee's Report adopted: "Your Committee after considering the question of the Export of Bones and Indigenous Fertilisers, is of opinion that this Association should request the Board of Agriculture in India not to lose sight of the importance of cheap manures to all classes of agriculturists, and suggests for its consideration the imposition of an export tax on indigenous fertilisers, as we are of opinion that such a tax, even if it fail to reduce the local price, will provide funds which could be devoted to the encouragement of both the manufacture of superphosphate and the oil crushing industry. We should like to see a resolution passed at this meeting which will give effect to our suggestions."

Mr. Mahon proposed and Mr. Hunt seconded that the Report be adopted.

Planters Benevolent Fund—You will have had the Secretary's report on this, but we also brought it to the notice of the Meeting that the Fund was not being supported by some Associations in the manner anticipated in the original idea. The Kanan Devans explained that they already had one of their own, so that they did not support the United Planters' Association Fund as liberally as they otherwise would do. Although nothing much more was said, still we think good will accrue from our having brought the matter up.

Hybridization of Coffee.—Mr. Anstead informed us that the Experimental Plot on the Nilgiris was coming on quite satisfactorily and that nothing more could be said about it at present.

In conclusion we would impress on our Members generally that they would gain a lot by attending these meetings in Bangalore more than they do at present. Not only would they meet brother planters from other Districts, but it would also be an opportunity to discuss and exchange opinions on all matters affecting the Planting industry of Southern India.

3. **Labour Commission.**—The Honorary Secretary called the attention of the meeting to the report of the U. P. A. S. I. Labour Committee and to the proposed Labour Commission and pointed out it would be necessary to decide whether or not the Association would support the scheme for a Labour Commission. There ensued a long and somewhat desultory discussion during which Mr. C. E. Murray-Aynsley pointed out in forcible language how the old Coffee Estates which had their Labour well establish-

ed would be paying to obtain labour for the new openings of the big produce companies of S. India; Mr. G. K. Martin gave from his own experience a concrete case in which a Labour Commissioner would have been of great assistance to him and Mr. H. M. Mann spoke in favour of the scheme as tending to prevent inter-district competition, and the Honorary Secretary referred Members to the speech of Mr. Scoble Nicholson, of the Ceylon Labour Commission, at the Bangalore Conference as showing how the two Commissions might combine for the common good.

A member having asked the Delegates to Bangalore if it was intended that the Commission should recruit coolies, the answer was in the negative. Some members thought that the scheme was at present too vague for them to give a definite decision. The majority of the members were of the opinion that Coffee was being asked to pay more than its fair share considering the fewer coolies per acre required in comparison with Tea, or Rubber. Finally the Chairman having called the meeting to order, Mr. Macrae in an able speech moved:—

"That this Association recognises that something more than we have at present is wanted for the protection of labour in Southern India; that it thinks this proposed Labour Commission if properly worked will go a long way towards this, and that it is, therefore, prepared to support it, and, with this in view members will send in a memo. of their subscribing acreages on as early a date as possible, and that Members who are not in a position to state definitely if they can support the scheme should consult their proprietors." This was seconded by Mr. Mahon and there being no amendment proposed the Chairman put it to the vote, when it was carried by a narrow majority.

In continuation of the above Mr. Macrae said it must be understood that the foregoing proposition be for a period of 5 years at a total of Rs.6 per acre, Rs.2 the first and Re.1 for succeeding years.

4. *Mail Service*—Mr. Mahon in introducing Mr. H. Ormerod to the meeting pointed out the inefficiency of the present tonga service and Mr. Ormerod explained the terms on which he would be able to run a Motor Service. Mr. Mahon proposed and Mr. Murray-Aynsley seconded "That this Association do support Mr. H. Ormerod in his endeavours to obtain the contract for the carriage of the Mails by Motor Service"..... Carried *Nem. con.*

It was also arranged that the President and Honorary Secretary should meet Mr. Harrison, the Postmaster-General, Madras, during his visit to Mercara on Sunday, 19th.

5. The following new members were proposed, seconded and duly elected:—W. Egerton, Esq., A. E. J. Nicolls, Esq., C. H. Browne, Esq.

6. *Correspondence on the Table*.—Letter from the Offg. Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry, forwarded by the Chief Commissioner of Coorg, as to the desirability of Legislation in connection with the use of the term "Jank" in this country.

Letter from the Commissioner of Coorg re. the Coorg Noxious Weeds Regulation. Letter from the Postmaster-General, Madras Circle, forwarded by the Commissioner of Coorg re the Mail Tonga Service.

7. The meeting closed with the usual vote of thanks to the Chair.

(Signed) W. M. BALL,
Honorary Secretary.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Meppadi, 24th October, 1913.

S. I. P. B. Fund.

THE EDITOR,

The Planters' Chronicle,

Bangalore.

Sir,—One very definite delusion and a little resentment seem to have arisen about the handling of this matter at the recent U. P. A. S. I. Meeting. Will you allow me space to deal with them?

The Anamalai Delegates in their Report published in the *Chronicle* of 18th instant state (evidently with disapproval) that it was decided that Eurasian gentlemen may be allowed at the discretion of the Committee to subscribe to the Fund. I know that there are others who believe that this change was made.

Rightly or wrongly, Rule IX a & b of the S. I. P. B. Fund is quite definite on this matter and it was not altered. None but Europeans can join the Fund. This rule cannot be altered without a special resolution, and the memo. published in the *Chronicle* of September 6th shows, that no such resolution was passed. You have been good enough to get me a proof of the discussion which will appear in the Book of Proceedings and it is quite clear that no such resolution was even proposed. Mr. Nicolls mentioned that he considered it a hardship that a certain member of his Association should be excluded. But he went no further.

Then Mr. Lovett said that a Eurasian Proprietor, a Member of his Association had subscribed for two years. Mr. Lake pointed out that the subscriptions had been accepted under the old rule which admitted "Proprietors of Estates" without distinction of nationality. You confirmed this. Asked for my opinion as Chairman, if subscriptions taken under the old rule ought to be returned, I said I thought not, but that the present rule must be strictly adhered to in future. That was the end of the discussion on the S. I. P. B. Fund and shows that no alteration of the existing rule was made, and that neither the Finance Committee nor anyone else has power to accept subscribers who do not fulfil the conditions laid down in Rule IX.

The other matter that has attracted some adverse criticism is the decision to publish the names of beneficiaries for the information of subscribers in the Annual Report. I am strongly in favour of this being done, and was backed up by Mr. Richardson, Mr. Barber and Mr. Duncan. The feeling of the Meeting was with us. To compare small things with great, at a time when Cabinet Ministers are openly accused of playing fast and loose with the Party Funds, and the Chief Whip is received with insulting remarks about his "Co-Trustee," humble individuals like the Finance Committee cannot afford to run any risks. If in ten years' time anybody begins to ask questions let there be a clear precis in the Annual Reports of the reasons for each grant and the name of the recipient to answer him.

Your obedient servant,

C. E. ABBOTT.

Daverashola Estate,

Daverashola P. O., Nilgiris,

October 21st, 1913.

Labour Commission.

In regard to the North Mysore Planters' Association request for "Further Information as Regards Working Details of the Proposed Labour Commission."

Sir,—At the last U. P. A. S. I. Meeting the main point discussed was the advisability of starting a Labour Commission. A Committee was appointed to go into the matter (Page 2 of the Labour Committee Report para. 2). The meeting then appointed a Committee to go fully into the question of the establishment of a Labour Commission, and to forward working details and report on the whole question.

I admit that working details might possibly have been enlarged upon by the Committee, but the time they had, within which to draw up their report, and to make a rough estimate of expenditure, so as to arrive at what might be the total amount required to run the Commission on, was limited. Their report I think conclusively proved the main point, i.e., the advisability of starting a Labour Commission, and the benefits to be obtained from it.

Working detail—is a matter which must finally be settled when the Extraordinary General Meeting meets at Bangalore. Experience and the Chief Commissioner can only eventually settle them satisfactorily. We fortunately have the experience of the Ceylon Labour Commission as a guide. We are not starting our Commission as they had to do, with no star to guide them. I have taken my line from theirs, and I hope what I have written will satisfy the North Mysore Planters' Association for the time being. The Ceylon Commissioner has only to turn the stream to one outlet when his responsibility ceases; the Commissioner of the South India Labour Commission will have several.

WORK OF DEPARTMENTS.

The Commissioner.—To supervise the work of the European and Native Assistant both at head-quarters and by frequent touring. To act as banker and be responsible that money remitted to the agency by planters is used for the purpose it is intended. To forward accounts and reports to the U. P. A. S. I. To enquire into possible new recruiting ground. The general carrying out and the working of the scheme, and will be directly responsible to the U. P. A. S. I.

Office Assistant.—To be responsible for keeping accounts and books up to date. (A complete register of kangannies and maistries will be kept.)

To undertake the duties of the Commissioner when on tour. It will be absolutely necessary that he should be a first class accountant.

Assistant Commissioner.—The moral effect of a European in villages from time to time cannot be denied.

A part of every month to be spent in travelling through the recruiting districts. When on tour distributing advertisements. Obtaining useful information as regards available labour supply. Looking up kangannies or maistries who have been sent for recruiting purposes. Interviewing officials. Forwarding reports on kangannies or maistries to estates interested, and help-

ing them in every way if they are in any difficulties. Forwarding monthly reports to the Central Office on recruiting prospects in their districts.

Native Assistants to the Assistant Commissioner.—It will be understood that it will be impossible for the Assistant Commissioners to carry out every detail of their work without assistance. It is suggested that a certain number of travelling Native Assistants should be appointed. They would be continually on tour. They would see that the point of advertising was thoroughly carried out. If the right men are procured they ought to prove a mine of useful information to Assistant Commissioners. Their continual moving from village to village would I think bring it home to the kangany or maistry that they were under observation and that they would have to account for any adverse reports. It would also be their duty to help subscribers' maistries.

SCOPE.

The South India Planters' Labour Commission has been established in order to facilitate in every way the recruiting of agricultural labourers for South Indian estates.

The Commission undertakes no direct recruiting, but the scope of the Commission consists in the following:—

1. Registering coolies at the various agencies and forwarding them on to Estates.
2. Passing them through the depôts, feeding and protecting them from molestation in every form as far as possible.
3. Rejection of medically unfit and undesirables.
4. Supervision of maistries or kanganies sent to recruit, and furnishing reports to the estates from which they come.
5. Helping maistries or kanganies in drawing up contracts and if necessary getting same readily attested.
6. Furnishing information to the Coast Agency Committee and the estates concerned as to labour conditions ruling in districts and prospects of recruiting in the various districts from month to month based on camping reports furnished by the controlling staff.
7. Advertising South India throughout the recruiting districts of South India, overlooking criticism of all recruiting carried out in South India with the object of maintaining its good name.

DEFAULTING DEPARTMENT.

1. Helping maistries or kanganies in tracing defaulting coolies with a view to inducing them to return to the estates or in the recovery of advances.
2. Helping planters in tracing defaulting maistries or kanganies and inducing them to fulfil their contracts or in the recovery of advances.

Yours faithfully,

J. S. NICOLLS.

22nd October, 1911.

The Labour Problem.

THE EDITOR,

The Planters' Chronicle,

Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—There are a couple of fallacies in N. I. K's letter in your issue No. 42 which I venture to correct.

The first is N. I. K's fear of the consequences of authenticated criticism and he cites Kipling's B. B. as an instance. He forgets however that B. B. was a Government Official and we all know that the motto of the "little Tin Gods on the mountain side" is "You work—I think" but with us planters I hope the position is different.

We are, or ought to be, business men, and any healthy, intelligent if disagreeable criticism which tends to assist us in the pursuit of the elusive rupee should be welcomed by all.

If there are any visiting agents or managers existent amongst us whose motto is that of the Simla bureaucrats, and N. I. K. is unfortunate enough to be serving under one of them, he has my sympathy but the remedy is in his own hands. Let him look elsewhere for his bread and butter (if he is not too fond of the butter) N. I. K. further on in his letter states "an increasing population.....whatever else happens."

Tut, tut, N. I. K. do you really believe that any considerable body of Government servants in the higher grades of the Indian Services adopt that principle in their life work and that the Government are actuated by such a motive in encouraging emigration? I cannot believe you are serious (India with a population of 350 millions or thereabouts and people talking about shortage of labour and advocating restriction of emigration. Ye Gods)

Yours faithfully,

"NOVICE"

P. S.—I have adopted a non-de-plume but for very different reasons to N. I. K.

"N."

Tea Queries.

The Editor,

The Planters' Chronicle.

Dear Sir,—Would some one interested in Tea kindly inform me whether young tea plants should be put out in the field before the seed has dropped off the stems even if planted with ball or in baskets? I have been told that this has proved to be absolutely wrong, and has been the cause of failure in planted up areas. Should no plant be put out before the seed has dropped or be absorbed into the plant? Does the fact of tea shrubs flowering at some 14 months after planting out, prove that this must have been a poor lot of tea seed and should the flower be nipped off?

Yours faithfully,

BEGINNER.

Bangalore. 28th October, 1913.

Tea Freight, etc.

FREIGHT ON RUBBER, TEA, COFFEE, COPRA AND POONAC.

THE SECRETARY,

U. P. A. S. I.,

Bangalore.

Dear Sir,—I give below statement of freights charged on the above products from Colombo and Malabar Coast to London. As you will see the charge on rubber is out of all proportion with the charges on other products, and I think considering the present state of the Rubber market which necessitates the cutting down of expenditure in every possible way it is only fair that the shipping Companies should meet us and reduce their charges on freight. I am advised that the best mode of procedure will be for the U.P.A.S.I. and the Ceylon Planters' Association to approach the Steamship Lines through their Agents at Colombo, Tuticorin, Cochin and Calicut. For the information of District Associations it will be advisable to publish these figures in the *Planters' Chronicle*.

In the meantime I am writing to all District Associations interested on the matter.

Yours faithfully,

J. A. RICHARDSON.

FREIGHT ON RUBBER, TEA, COFFEE, COPRA AND POONAC.

Freight on	From Colombo.	From Malabar Coast.
Rubber in cases per Ton of 50 c. ft. ...	65/-	Per Ton of 50 c. ft. 65/-
Tea do do ...	33/-	do do 30/-
Coffee in bags per Ton of 16 cwt. ...	32/6	Per Ton of 18 cwt. 30/-
Copra " per Ton of 12 cwt. ...	39/-	Per Ton of 12 cwt. 28/9
Poonac " per Ton of 17 cwt. ...	27/6	Per Ton of 17 cwt. 28/9

The rates given in each case being the rate to London.

TEA-DRINKING IN FRANCE.

Although in Paris tea drinking has become popular to a certain extent in fashionable circles, and the imports of tea into France are increasing, there is plenty of room for further work in exploiting the leaf in various parts of the country. In some departments Ceylon tea has acquired a fairly firm hold, thanks to the efforts of some British traders; but the average French consumer has not yet troubled to discriminate between British grown tea and the Chinese product, although more familiar with the latter. Annam tea, which is not a fascinating beverage to palates accustomed to other teas, finds a fairly ready market in France, but there is a fine opportunity for further enterprise in instructing the French people as to the merits of Indian and Ceylon teas.—*The Ceylon Observer*.